

Application No.: 09/667,836

Docket No.: JCLA6695

In The Claims

Claim 1. (canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A tablet cutting apparatus for cutting a tablet at a predetermined location, comprising:

a blade for cutting the tablet;

an arranging device for arranging a long side of the tablet to be perpendicular to the tablet's moving direction by moving the tablet for a predetermined distance, so that a center position of the tablet is able to substantially match a position of the blade;

an oblique plate, with a first end coupled to the arranging device for receiving the tablet and then making the tablet arranged by the arranging device ~~fall~~ to move along the oblique plate angled downwardly in the tablet's moving direction, and a second end that is located in the vicinity of the blade;

a shutter, located at the second end of the oblique plate, for stopping the tablet fallen from the oblique plate;

a ~~retaining~~ device, located above the oblique plate for retaining the tablet from the long side of the tablet stopped by the shutter, the retaining device comprising a pair of retainers symmetrically arranged with the blade, wherein the pair of retainers is capable of sandwiching the tablet in a manner that the center position of the tablet matches the location of the blade; and

a conveying device located above the blade, for conveying the tablet adjusted by the ~~retaining~~ device to a cutting location, so that the tablet is cut in half from its center.

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Claims 3-6. (canceled)

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the arranging device comprises a pushing plate for pushing the tablet to move forwards.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the arranging device comprises a pushing plate for pushing the tablet to move along an arc path.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the arranging device comprises a pushing plate for pushing the tablet to move along an arc path; and a baffle plate for radially applying a force on the front end of the tablet while the baffle plate is contact with the front end of the tablet.

10. (Previously presented) A tablet cutting apparatus for cutting a tablet at a predetermined location, comprising:

a rotary blade for rotationally cutting the tablet;

an arranging device for arranging a long side of the tablet to be perpendicular to the tablet's moving direction by moving the tablet for a predetermined distance, wherein the rotary blade is locate at a downstream side of the arranging device, so that a center position of the tablet is able to substantially match a position of the blade;

a retaining device, coupled to the arranging device, for retaining the tablet arranged by the arranging device from the long side of the tablet such that the position of the tablet is coincident with a location corresponding to the rotary blade, the retaining device comprising a pair of retainers symmetrically arranged with the blade, wherein the pair of retainers is capable of

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sandwiching the tablet in a manner that the center position of the tablet matches the location of the blade; and

a conveying device located above the rotary blade, for conveying the tablet adjusted by the retainer device to the location of the rotary blade, so that the tablet is cut in half from its center.

11. (Currently Amended) A tablet cutting apparatus for cutting a tablet at a predetermined location, comprising:

a rotary blade for rotationally cutting the tablet;

an arranging device for arranging a long side of the tablet to be perpendicular to the tablet's moving direction by moving the tablet along an arc channel, so that a center position of the tablet is able to substantially match a position of the blade;

a position modification device, located between the rotary blade and the arranging device, for further modifying the long side of the tablet to be perpendicular to a falling direction of the tablet when the tablet moves downwardly from the arranging device ~~the position of the tablet fallen from the arranging device such that the long side of the tablet is perpendicular to a falling direction of the tablet's;~~

a retainer device, coupled to the position modification device, for retaining the tablet rearranged by the position modification device from the long side of the tablet such that the position of the tablet is coincident with a location corresponding to the rotary blade, the retaining device comprising a pair of retainers symmetrically arranged with the blade, wherein the pair of

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retainers is capable of sandwiching the tablet in a manner that the center position of the tablet matches the location of the blade; and

a conveying device located above the rotary blade, for conveying the tablet adjusted by the retainer device to the location of the rotary blade using a rotary roller and resilient plates, so that the tablet is cut in half from its center,

wherein a force applied on the tablet during cutting is similar to that applied to the rotary roller and is for setting a relative position of the rotary blade and the conveying device and a rotational direction of the rotary blade.

Claim 12. (canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A tablet cutting device, comprising:

a blade for cutting the tablet;

an arranging device for arranging a long side of the tablet to be perpendicular to the tablet's moving direction by moving the tablet for a predetermined distance, so that a center position of the tablet is able to substantially match a position of the blade;

an oblique plate, with a first end coupled to the arranging device for receiving the tablet and then making the tablet arranged by the arranging device to move downwardly fall along the oblique plate, and a second end ~~where~~ is in the vicinity of the blade;

a shutter, located at the second end of the oblique plate, for stopping the tablet fallen from the oblique plate and further rearranging the position of the tablet;

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a retaininger device, coupled to the oblique plate ~~position modification device~~, for retaining the tablet from the long side of the tablet stopped by the shutter such that the position of the tablet is coincident with a location corresponding to the rotary blade; and

a conveying device located above the blade, for conveying the tablet adjusted by the retaininger device to a cutting location, so that the tablet is cut in half from its center,

wherein the retaininger device comprises a pair of retainers, and the pair of retainers is separated by a gap with respect to the blade ~~is expanded within a range for guiding the tablet~~ before the conveying device is driven.